

United States House of Representatives, Office of John Duncan, Jr.  
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Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-4202  
January 16, 2001

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Mr. Gary S. Hartman  
U.S. Department of Energy  
Oak Ridge Operations  
PO Box 2001  
Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37831

Dear Mr. Hartman:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments to the Draft Site-Wide Environmental Impact Statement (SWEIS) for the Oak Ridge Y-12 Plant. The Y-12 Plant has played a critical role in ensuring our national security for the past fifty-five years.

Its support of defense programs has been both a regional commitment and source of pride. The citizens of our area fully support the continuing role of Y-12, and hope it will remain the Department of Energy's (DOE) primary site for enriched uranium operations and storage related to the Nation's nuclear weapons program.

In reviewing this Draft SWEIS, I want to go on record in support of the proposed construction of new facilities for two of Y-12's mission components, these being the highly enriched uranium storage and special materials missions.

After fifty-five years of operation, it is critically important that we modernize the processes and facilities at Y-12. Modernization of the Y-12 Plant will ensure continued long-term rapid response by Y-12 to its national security role while more effectively meeting health, safety and environmental requirements. It will also result in reduced operating costs and save taxpayers' money over the long-term life of the plant.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Comment No. 1  
Comment noted.

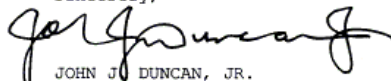
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With kindest regards, I am

Sincerely,



JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.  
Member of Congress

JJD:jm